

Finally it should be noted that the text on White-fronted Black Chat in Keith, Urban & Fry<sup>2</sup> contains a discrepancy concerning the distribution in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Under 'Range and Status' it is stated that there are probably two separate populations, one in the lowlands of SW Ethiopia and the other in Eritrea. The distribution map reflects these comments and consequently excludes the type-locality. However within the 'Description' section the range of the nominate race is described as 'N Ethiopia south to Yavello' yet Yavello lies only about 100 km from the Kenyan border! With the nominate race being restricted to Ethiopia and Eritrea this appears to be the first docu-

mented breeding record of the nominate race and is also the first documented breeding record for Ethiopia! ⑦

## References

1. Keith, S., Urban, E.K. and Fry, C.H. (eds) 1992. *The Birds of Africa*. Vol IV. London: Academic Press.
2. Urban, E.K. and Brown, L.H. 1971. *A Checklist of the Birds of Ethiopia*. Addis Ababa: Haile Sellassie I University Press.

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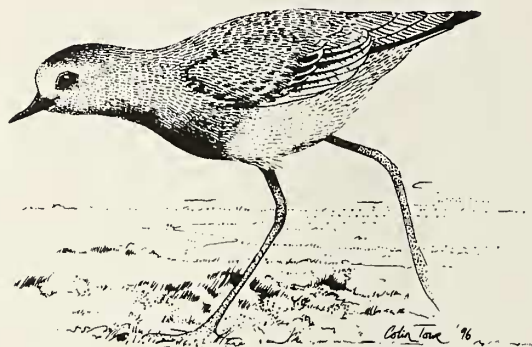
# White-tailed Plover *Vanellus leucurus*, new for Ethiopia

Lieuwe Dijkse

The White-tailed Plover winters in north-east Africa, mostly in Egypt and Sudan along the coasts of the Red Sea and along the White and Blue Nile rivers, their tributaries and the River Takezze. It has not previously been recorded in Ethiopia<sup>1</sup>.

On 17 October 1994, my brother, Adriaan Dijkse (AJD) and I together with our spouses were birding a small unused reservoir in the outskirts of Makele (13°30'N 39°29'E) the capital of Tigray Province in northern Ethiopia when we discovered a White-tailed Plover resting on the mud at the water's edge. We are both familiar with the species, AJD on its Asian breeding grounds and I with wintering birds in Iraq. Coincidentally in 1976 I also observed the first White-tailed Plover in The Netherlands. AJD took some pictures of the bird which was easily identified by its unmarked pale greyish-brown appearance and long yellow legs. Later it flew to the other side of the lake and back at which point the distinctive wing-pattern, with a white patch bordered by black over the lesser coverts, and the very long legs trailing well beyond the completely white tail were clearly seen. No other plover shows these features.

The bird was still present during my next visit to the site on 2 November 1994 but could not be found during the midwinter count in January 1995. However another White-tailed Plover was seen at a reservoir near Tessanie in Eritrea by Jim Vaughan (John Atkins, pers comm) during the winter of 1994/95. As birding activity in Eritrea and Ethiopia is increasing rapidly it can be expected that the species will be recorded regularly in the future. ⑧



White-tailed Plover *Vanellus leucurus*  
Colin Towse

## Reference

1. Urban, E.K., Fry, C.H. and Keith, S. (eds) 1986. *The Birds of Africa*. Vol II. London: Academic Press.

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## Postscript

Only an hour after submitting this article on 5 February 1996 Lieuwe visited the reservoir again and recorded the same or another White-tailed Plover 15 months after the original record.

Editorial team